British Waterways

# DISCOVER THE BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON CANAL

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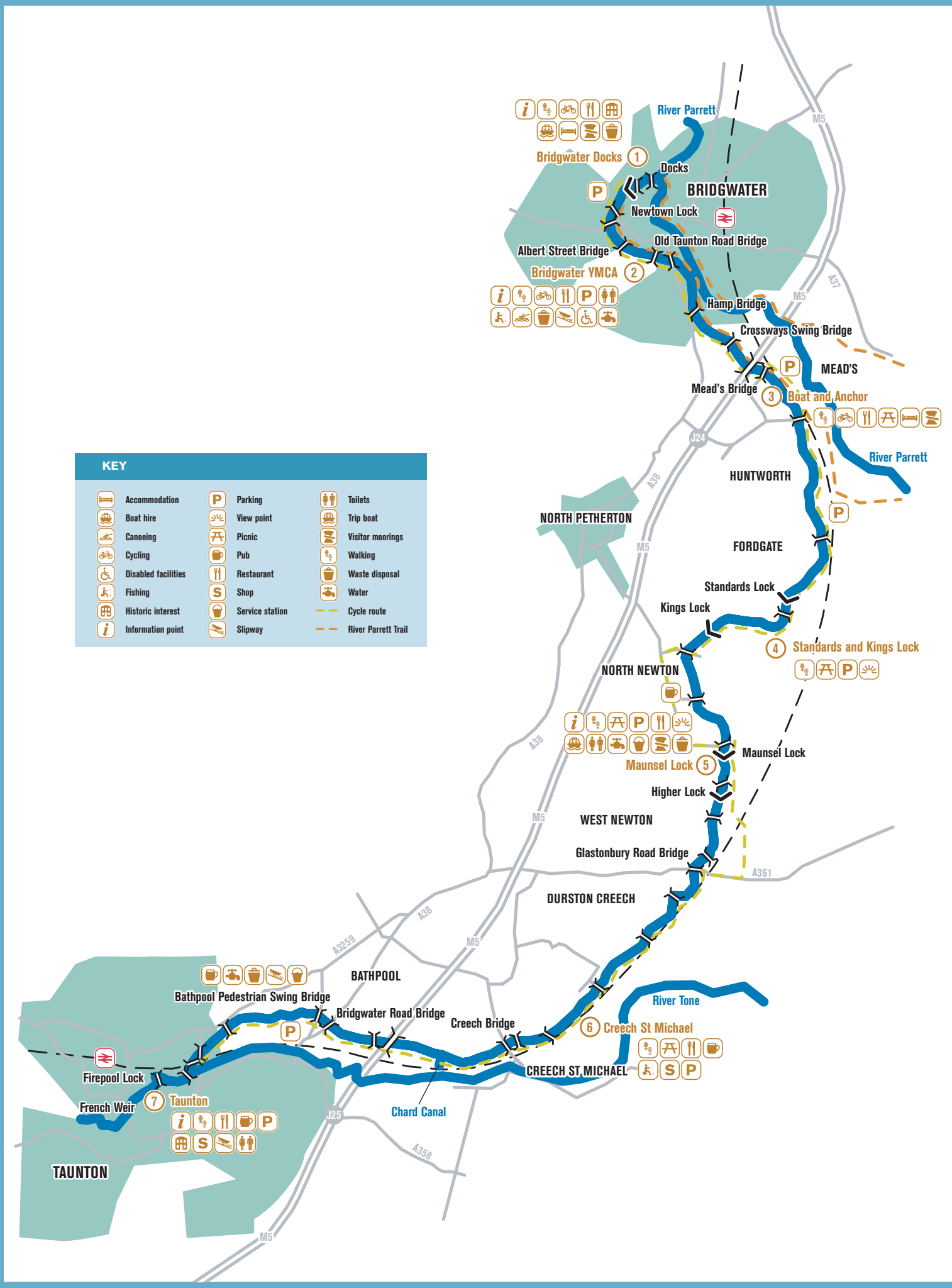
# A SPECIAL PIECE OF SOMERSET

- Discover 14 1/2 miles of canal heritage
- Relax on a boat trip
- Enjoy a circular walk or cycle ride
- Take a picnic or stop at a pub or café
- Discover a special piece of Somerset countryside
- Fantastic for fishing

# BRIDGWATER AND TAUNTON CANAL



# BRIDGWATER AND TAUNTON CANAL

## 1 BRIDGWATER DOCKS

The Bridgwater & Taunton Canal opened in 1827. At Bridgwater Docks you can explore the old lock where the Canal is connected to the River Parrett.

**Boat Trips** Take a cruise along the Canal on 'Peggotytom' based out of the Docks. Tel: 01278 451523.

**Food and drink** 'Admirals Landing' is a great place to start or finish a trip to the Canal. Look out for the Canal memorabilia on some of the walls.

**Walking** Head out of the Docks to the Albert Street Cutting, see the words of a poem engraved on beams that cross the Canal.

## 2 BRIDGWATER YMCA

**Boat Trips** Trail boats can be launched at the slipway here. Boat licences are available from the YMCA.

**Food and drink** The café serves hot and cold food. Contact the YMCA on 01278 422511 for details.

**Fishing** A fishing jetty for the disabled is close by. With vast stocks of fish there is plenty for the angler to do. Contact British Waterways for more details.

## 3 BOAT AND ANCHOR

**Food and drink** Come and eat with family or friends at this ideal waterside location.

**Walking** Take a leisurely stroll along the towpath into town and back.

**Cycling** Start the Bridgwater to Burrowbridge cycling circuit from here; allow up to two hours for the ride. Contact Sedgemoor Tourist Information Centre for details.

## 4 STANDARDS AND KINGS LOCK

The concrete balance beams and paddle gear are unique; see how the counterbalance does its job.

**Walking** Enjoy the tranquil setting with panoramic views across open countryside, walk from lock to lock and don't forget to take your camera!

**Other activities** Ideal spot for a family picnic. Bring your box of watercolours and paint the day away.

## 5 MAUNSEL LOCK

Maunsel is at the centre of a scale model of the solar system that runs the length of the Canal. The Sun is here, and you can see the inner planets nearby. The last of the Lock Keepers Cottages stands opposite the information centre and café.

**Boating** Hire the 'Maunsel Lady' tripboat and make it a great day out with family and friends. Contact the Canal Centre on 01278 663160.

**Food and drink** Light refreshments from local producers, open spring to autumn six days a week.

## 6 CREECH ST MICHAEL

Explore the historic village with its 13th century church with a fine wagon roof.

**Food and drink** Pub and eating establishments just a short walk from the Canal.

**Walking** Originally the Chard Canal branched off here, you can explore the now derelict remains.

## 7 TAUNTON

Explore Taunton with its wide range of shops and historic sites.

**Food and drink** There are many pubs, cafés and eating establishments just yards from the Canal and River.

**Walking** Meander around the town, and explore the county museum in the 12th century castle. Visit Firepool Lock where the River Tone joins the Canal, with great views of cascading water at French Weir.

**Other activities** Park the car and walk the length of the Canal, then take a train journey back. A great starting or finishing point for cycling the Canal.

## A DAYS WALKING

Bridgwater and Taunton have train stations, so you can walk the entire Canal and catch the train back. Trains run daily on a regular basis taking approximately 20 minutes between the two towns. Timetables are available from the Tourist Information Centre or train stations.

Experience the true scale of our solar system by walking past the model planets of the Space Walk.

Or try a circular walk that takes in the Canal. Details of the River Parrett Trail and the Somerset Levels are available from Tourist Information Centres.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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**BRIDGWATER TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE**
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**TAUNTON TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE**
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